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March 2024 Newsletter - Twelfth Edition



Global Methodist

Lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.



Convening General Conference Delegates

by Rev. James Parks, Upper Midwest President Pro Tem

The Convening General Conference of our Global Methodist Church will happen September 20-26 in San Jose, Costa Rica. This conference will help move us from a transitional denomination into our more permanent structure. We want this structure to make the local church the central focus of the Global Methodist Church. One reason the conference is being held in Costa Rica is because of the ease and convenience of the VISA process for international delegates.

In preparation for this conference, we must elect delegates to represent the churches and people of the Upper Midwest Conference. Our number of delegates will be determined by a formula approved by the GMC Transitional Leadership Council. The formula uses the number of churches and pastors from each conference to come up with a percentage of the total delegation, which is to be around 350 people.

The Upper Midwest Conference will have 10 delegates from the first 250 spots. This means we will have 5 clergy and 5 laity. In June, the final 100 spots will be filled to equalize the delegates. We could have 2, at most, 4 more people added to our delegation. We will also elect 2 alternates for both clergy and laity. Our total will be 8 or 9 of each clergy and laity.

We will elect these delegates at our June Annual Conference. The General Church will help with accommodations, so there will be plenty of time to make those arrangements. Delegates will also have training and communication about the conference that will begin later in June.

- For March, I invite everyone to be in prayer for our General Conference and for the future delegation that we will elect.
- In April, we will have an opportunity for people to self-nominate to be considered for our delegation. If God lays someone on your heart, then you would need to encourage them to apply.
- In May, our nominees will be shared with the Conference for consideration.
- At our June Conference, we will elect our delegates. The process for the election is still being worked out.

Here are a few places for focused prayer as we move through this process.

- First, pray for us to send a delegation representing our newly formed conference. Because we have only been together as a conference for four months, we do not know everyone in the conference yet, so it could be difficult for us to decide who should represent us. It may be beneficial to vote on a slate of delegates offered by our Conference leadership. Or we may want to elect delegates one by one. Prayers of discernment for a solid process.
- Second, pray for the resources to send our delegation. It has been estimated that the cost could be around \$5,000 per person to attend General Conference. We are financially responsible for our delegation as they represent us.

If you want more information on the General Conference, [here](#) is a recently released 15 page document with details.

Next month our newsletter will contain the way to apply to be a delegate to General Conference. I thank God that he continues to lead us forward.

In CHRIST,
Rev. James E. Parks



Mission Is Our DNA

by Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Upper Midwest Vice President Pro Tem

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly! The Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist Church is committed the vision personally, locally, in our Conference and in our world. The provisional disciple of the Global Methodist Church states:

“Ours is a global church that recognizes the gifts and contributions of each part of our communion in Christ, working together as partners in the gospel with equal voice and leadership. Learning from each other and sharing best practices across cultures, we follow the admonition of St. Paul that “to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good,” that together we are the Body of Christ, sharing in “an equal concern for one another” (1Corinthians 12). Our vision of a global church is one marked by mutual love, concern, sharing, and accountability.”

The Global Methodist Church is implementing this vision and mission through partnerships between Conferences in the United States and Conferences in the greater world.

The first step in these partnerships is the sharing of a bishop. Bishop Mark Webb not only serves us but is also the presiding bishop of conferences throughout the world. He is a global match maker. Bishop Webb, after meeting us and presiding over convening conferences found us a match. He contacted James and me and told us of a wonderful partner for the Upper Midwest, it is South Africa.

Bishop Mark told us our stories are similar, both of our conferences early on took a stand on the primacy of scripture as the basis of what we say and do. Both churches and clergy committed themselves even at personal cost. Both conferences have a vision for their areas, bringing the saving grace of God to a hurting and lost world.

Our Conferences are similar in size, South Africa is about one and three fourths Texas, and we are two and a quarter Texas (area measured in units of Texas). We both tend to have churches concentrated in smaller communities and in many rural areas. We are both made up of diverse groups of people, South Africa in tribal groups and the Upper Midwest made up of different state identities. We already share some common ministries, especially Blessman International which is based out of Iowa and ministers in South Africa.

James and I met with Bishop Webb, Buyisile (Stewart) Mqobongo, President Pro Tem of the South African Conference, Mbengelele (Elie) Diko, Administrator for the South African Conference, and Jay Therrell, President Pro Tem of the Florida Conference. Stewart and Elie shared the basic needs of the Conference. South Africa needs prayer support, financial support and educational support.

Most pastors in the South African Conference are serving without compensation and lack resources to gain an education and serve the churches. The pastors need people to come along side and hold them in prayer, so they do not feel alone. They long for someone to mentor them and help carry the burden of ministry.

The Conference itself operates on a shoestring. President Mqobong and Administrator Diko also serve with limited compensation. They lack resources to provide adequate oversight of the churches and districts in the Conference. Bishop Webb and the Conference leaders estimate the immediate need of South Africa is about \$145,000 a year.

The need of South Africa was shared with the Cabinet. Our budget passed at the Convening Conference designated \$20,000 for a partnership. The Upper Midwest is willing to partner. Please pray about the way your church can take part. Pray for guidance as we look at what type of commitment the Conference can make to South Africa. Pray for the ways our South African sisters and brothers can bless our churches, people, and Conference.

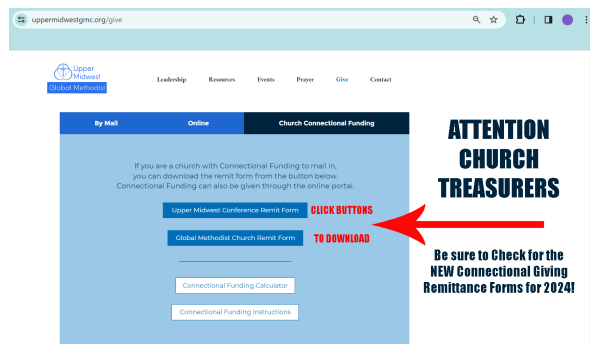
Mission is our DNA. The world is our parish, and it looks like South Africa is our partner!

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Church Treasurers

Be sure to check for the NEW 2024
Connectional Giving Remittance Forms!

[Access Forms Here](#)



Upper Midwest Annual Conference Coming Soon!

being *Filled*



Registration NOW OPEN!

[Register Here](#)

June 13-15, 2024

Sioux City, Iowa Convention Center

Conference Schedule

Opening Session: Thursday, June 13th at 6:00 PM

Full Schedule for the conference will be available soon!

Cost:

\$90 per person

\$45 Livestream Only

Hotel Information

King and Queen Room blocks are on hold at these Hotels:

The Courtyard Marriott Downtown/Convention Center

Stoney Creek Hotel (down the street from the Convention Center)

King and Queen Room block prices \$109 per night at both Hotels until May 13th.

Click below to make your reservation at the Hotel of your choice.

For Stoney Creek Hotel be sure to enter group code: **UpperMidwestGlob**

[Courtyard Marriott](#)

[Stoney Creek Hotel](#)

We Want to Know! So We Are Taking A Survey.

What topics would you like to focus on at our Annual Conference?

Submit Your Response

Get Connected With the Upper Midwest!

Connect with the life of the Upper Midwest Conference

- Community Connection
- Calendar
- Directory
- Connectional Funding Giving
- Event Signups

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AVAILABLE ON THE App Store

church center

After downloading the app, scan the QR code to setup the app

What Is the Church Center App?

Church Center App is a [website](#) and mobile app that you can use to explore, engage, and stay connected with the Upper Midwest Conference.

How do I get the Church Center App?

Use the Google Play (Android) and App Store (iPhone) BUTTONS BELOW to connect directly to the download pages. You will need to access these from the device you are downloading to. Once you have downloaded the app, scan the QR code with your camera and follow the link to easily setup the app.

What Can I do in the Church Center App?

Here a few things you can do in the Church Center App:

- You can access information about your groups.
- View the Conference Calendar.
- Register for Conference Events. Like the Upper Midwest Annual Conference in June 2024!
- Access the Conference Directory and add your information to the Directory.

How Do I Access the Directory?

Send us a request [here](#) and we will send you an email with instructions on how to access the directory.

How Do I Add My Information to the Directory?

After you request access to the Directory and receive your email instructions and log into the Church Center App you will see a banner prompting you to share your information in the Directory. Click on the banner and follow the instructions (this is where you decide what information you want to share). Just a note: You must be logged into the Church Center App and already have access to the Directory to include your information in the Directory.

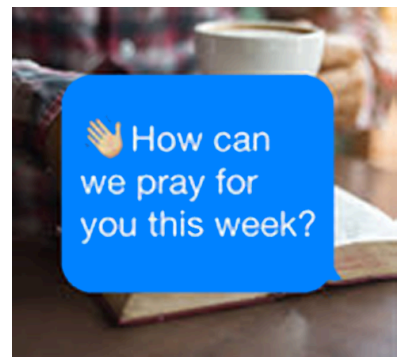
Download the App Here:

Google Play

App Store

Conference Prayer - Week of Prayer

James and Ross are praying for each Pastor and Church throughout 2024. They are praying for four each week and should get through the whole Conference by the end of November. Shanna will reach out for Prayer requests from Pastors and Churches. You can also submit Prayer Requests by clicking the button below.



Submit Prayer Requests



Important Dates to Remember

June 13-15, 2024

The Upper Midwest Annual Conference

September 20-26, 2024

Global Methodist Church Convening General Conference

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

So the 2024 Convening General Conference
WORLD
will know

 GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

Mark Your Calendar! September 20-26, 2024

San Jose, Costa Rica

[More Information](#)

Global Methodist Store

It is now possible to purchase Global Methodist Merchandise through the NEW Global Methodist Store. All profits will be invested in the Ministerial Training Fund. Visit the newly launched GMC Store to order your approved GMC merchandise NOW!

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Upper
Midwest

Global Methodist

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